

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CTME-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 L-03 JUSE-00
SEC-01 H-01 XMB-02 FRB-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
OMB-01 INRE-00 DODE-00 FTC-01 /045 R

DRAFTED BY U.S. CUSTOMS:KINGLEBY;ARA/CAR:DPIERCE:KC
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:DPIERCE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, BF

SUBJECT: CURRENCY INVESTIGATION

1. A CUSTOMS TASK FORCE IS INVESTIGATING NUMEROUS MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHO MAY HAVE VIOLATED THE BANK SECRECY ACT BY NOT REPORTING CURRENCY AND/OR MONETARY INSTRUMENTS TRANSPORTED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES BORDER. THE INVESTIGATIONS, COORDINATED WITH A RELATED JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE COMPOSED OF 13 ATTORNEYS, HAVE ENTAILED A REVIEW OF ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO THE SEC, WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, EXIM BANK, AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

2. A TASK FORCE INVESTIGATION INVOLVING INTERCONTINENTAL DIVERSIFIED CORPORATION (HEREINAFTER IDC), FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA ISLANDS, IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION BY THE U.S. ATTORNEY, MIAMI, FLORIDA, IN THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAS DEVELOPED EVIDENCE
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THAT IDC (TO INCLUDE VARIOUS OFFICERS) VIOLATED THE BANK SECRECY ACT (31 USC 1101) BY NOT REPORTING THE TRANSPORTATION OF \$210,000 INTO/OUT OF THE UNITED STATES IN MAY AND JUNE, 1973.

3. INFORMATION DEVELOPED TO DATE INDICATES THE UNREPORTED \$210,000 WAS A PORTION OF FUNDS WHICH THE IDC BOARD OF

DIRECTORS AUTHORIZED CHARLES GOLDSMITH, THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF IDC, TO UTILIZE IN 1972 FOR POLITICAL AND OTHER PAYMENTS. ALTHOUGH CERTAIN PAYMENTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY MADE, GOLDSMITH EMBEZZLED A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE ALLOCATED FUNDS. GOLDSMITH'S EMBEZZLEMENT WAS UNCOVERED DURING AN AUDIT OF IDC FOR THEIR FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1975. SUBSEQUENTLY, EDWARD ST. GEORGE, FREEPORT, BAHAMAS, ACTING AS COUNSEL TO A MAJOR IDC STOCKHOLDER, UNDERTOOK AN INQUIRY OF GOLDSMITH'S CONDUCT. THEREAFTER, GOLDSMITH RESIGNED HIS POSITION AND RETURNED APPROXIMATELY THREE MILLION DOLLARS TO IDC. ST. GEORGE THEN SUCCEEDED GOLDSMITH AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, IDC, IN FEBRUARY, 1976.

4. ST. GEORGE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO BE INTERVIEWED IN THE BAHAMAS BY U.S. CUSTOMS SPECIAL AGENTS, CONCERNING THE UNREPORTED TRANSPORTATION OF \$210,000 INTO/OUT OF THE U.S. ST. GEORGE REQUESTED HOWEVER, THAT CLEARANCE FROM THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW. THE TESTIMONY OF ST. GEORGE IS CENTRAL TO THE INVESTIGATION AND WOULD CORROBORATE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY OTHER SOURCES.

ACTION REQUESTED:

UNLESS EMBASSY SEES OBJECTIONS, IT SHOULD CONTACT THE
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BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT AND REQUEST GCOB CLEARANCE FOR AN INTERVIEW OF ST. GEORGE IN THE BAHAMAS BY TWO CUSTOMS SPECIAL AGENTS. EMBASSY MAY INDICATE THAT INFORMATION SOUGHT IS ON MOVEMENT OF MONEY ACROSS U.S. BORDERS, RATHER THAN ON DISPOSITION OF THE FUNDS ONCE THEY HAVE REACHED BAHAMIAN TERRITORY.

AS THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WILL RUN ON/OR ABOUT MAY 4, 1978, EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST IS NEEDED. RESPONSE SHOULD BE SLUGGED FOR TREASURY, U.S. CUSTOMS, CURRENCY INVESTIGATOR KENNETH INGLEBY (PHONE 566-5086). VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CURRENCIES, INVESTIGATIONS, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE075485
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KINGLEBY;ARA/CAR:DPIERCE:KC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-0290
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780330/aaaaaznl.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 021238be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3220927
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENCY INVESTIGATION
TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, BF, IDC, INTERCONTINENTAL DIVERSIFIED CORP
To: NASSAU
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/021238be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014